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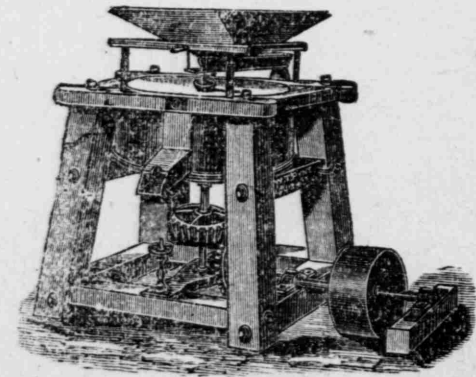
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ONE WHO HAD CHARGE OF THE CONFEDERATE MONEY.

General Basil W. Duke, in an Interesting Manner,
Releates the Incident of the Distribution of Specie at the Savannah River in May, 1865.

The following interesting article on the "Last Pay Day of the Confederacy" was written by Gen. Basil W. Duke, one of the most authentic as well as prolific writers on the history of the Confederate war:

"Perhaps there are few men besides myself still living who remember the distribution of specie at the Savannah river about the 6th or 7th of May, 1865, to the men composing the command which escorted Mr. Davis from Charlotte, N. C. to Washington, Ga. As the date indicates it was at the period of final surrender and just previously to Mr. Davis' attempt to escape. I myself have a very vivid recollection of this event, and all the circumstances attending the care and transportation of the fund of which this specie was part; for I was, very much against my will, made its chief custodian from Abbeville, S. C., to Washington, and in that capacity passed two or three days and nights of as unpleasant solicitude as ever befell me in the whole course of my life.

"On the afternoon when occurred that conference between Mr. Davis and the commanders of the five brigades which constituted the escort, which I have already described in these sketches, and which those who attended it have been accustomed to term the "Last Confederate Council of war," [Gen. John C. Breckinridge, who was then secretary of war and also actually commanding the troops in attendance upon Mr. Davis, gave instructions to the brigades to be prepared to resume our march in the direction of Washington at midnight. About 10 o'clock I received a message from him to the effect that he desired to see me immediately about a very important matter. When I reported to him, he informed me that a considerable amount of treasure, which had been brought from Richmond, was at the railroad station and said that it was necessary to provide for its removal from the cars in which it was loaded, and for its transportation along with the escort, and said that he wished me to take charge of it. He instructed me to procure a sufficient number of wagons for the purpose and to detail a guard of fifty men under a field officer for its protection, but required me to personally supervise anything that should be done. This was by no means an agreeable duty, especially as the general frankly stated that he did not know and that perhaps no one knew the exact amount of the fund, but that he believed it to be between five and six hundred thousand dollars in specie—much the greater part in gold.

"I represented that if no one knew what the sum was it was a very unpleasant responsibility to impose on an officer required to

take charge of it. It would be impossible for me, in the limited time allowed, to count the money, or even approximately estimate its amount, nor could I be sure that the entire amount would be turned over to me. An extremely disagreeable question might arise, therefore, if discrepancy should be subsequently asserted about the sum which so changed hands. He responded that all this had been considered; that it was an unfortunate, but unavoidable, and bade me to immediately proceed to execute the order.

"I detailed fifty men, picked up a guard and placed them under command of Col. Theophilus Steele and four of my best lieutenants, and, having obtained six wagons, began at once the work of loading the treasure. It was in charge, when I commenced the work, of some fifteen or twenty employees of the Confederate treasury department, and I could not, of course, exclude these men from the cars, because my men had to receive the treasure from them and while, therefore guards posted at the open doors of the box cars, which contained the specie prevented the entrance of all parties not engaged in handling it, there were so many of these, and they were so crowded in the doorway that some of them might have appropriated a considerable sum and the others have not been aware of it.

"I have never learned what was the exact sum of this treasure. It included, I believe, the Tennessee state school fund, and some 4,175,000 belonging to Richmond banks, and was all in gold and silver. It was packed in money bags, shot bags, a few small iron chests and wooden boxes some of them of the frailest description. I searched the cars by the light of a few tallow candles, and gathered up all that was shown me or that I could find. More than an hour was occupied in transferring the treasure from the cars to the wagons, and after the latter had been started off and had gotten perhaps half a mile away, Lieut. John R. Cole, one of the officers of the guard, rode up to me and handed over a pine box which apparently contained between \$2,000 and \$3,000 in gold. After the rest of us had left the cars he had examined it and had discovered this box stuck in a corner and covered up with a piece of brown sacking.

"On the next day at my urgent request, Gen. Breckinridge directed the guard should be increased to 200 men, and he ordered me to personally command it. I suggested that, instead of composing it entirely of men of my brigade, it should be constituted of details from all five. I believe this would be the best method to prevent jealousy and

suspicion among the men of the escort as well as insure that these details would closely watch each other. This plan was adopted. Nearly the entire guard was kept constantly on duty, day and night, and at every halt a majority of the escort was generally collected about the wagons, closely watching the guards.

"At the Savannah river, Mr. Davis ordered that the silver coin, amounting to one hundred and eight or ten thousand dollars should be paid to the troops in partial discharge of the arrears of pay due them. This was accordingly done. The quartermasters of the several brigades sat up during the night counting and dividing the money, and prorating it in proportion to the rosters of their respective commands. This procedure elicited a lively interest among the prospective beneficiaries of the distribution. A throng of men surrounded the little frame house where the money was being counted until after daybreak, and the windows were blocked with the eager faces of the interested expectants. The men had seen and received Confederate money in abundance for two or three years previously, but real money had been almost unknown to them. There is something gratifying to human nature in the receipt of even depreciated currency, and to get hard cash was inexpressibly agreeable. The men of my brigade received \$32 per capita, men and officers sharing alike. Gen. Breckinridge received the same, and was, for the purpose borne on the roll of my brigade. At Washington, Ga., on the next day, I turned over what was left of the treasure to Mr. M. H. Clarke, acting treasurer of the Confederate States, and was very glad to get rid of it. Mr. Clarke lived for many years after the war in Clarkesville, Tenn., and was one of the most successful business men in the prosperous little city.

"Mr. Davis for some reason, gave orders that Gen. Bragg and his staff should be paid each a month's pay in gold; a discrimination which occasioned some complaint among those who were not so fortunate. I was present when Mr. Clarke made this specific distribution and listened to a homily from one of the staff officers, which was rather amusing because of the seemingly inconsistent demand with which it was concluded. Gen. Bragg's ordnance officer was a major or lieutenant colonel—Odalowsky—I am not sure of the exact rank, nor indeed that I have spelled his name correctly. He was an efficient officer, but not popular, because of his peppery disposition and his curt way of dealing with those who had business with him. The cavalry were especially "down" on him because of a story that had been current for some time among them. It was reported that when a certain cavalry command had sent in a requisition for ammunition for small arms, he had returned it with the endorsement:

"Commanding general say: No more issue of ammunition to de cavalry. De cavalrs swap off de ammunition for de butter and de egg."

On this occasion, while Mr.

Clarke was engaged in counting out the gold which was to be paid Major Odalowsky the latter suddenly, and somewhat to the surprise of all his auditors, broke out into a fierce tirade against the precious metal. 'Blank, blank, de filthy stuff,' he said; 'I wish it had never been digged out of the bowels of the earth. It tempt a man to very evil. It make him false to his friend, to his brudder, to his fadder. It make him do all bad acts. I hate de sight of it.' Just then Clarke pushed over to him \$150, thinking that to be the sum due him. But Odalowsky was prompt to make correction. 'Fifteen dollar more, eef you please, Mr. Clarke' he quickly suggested. 'My pay is \$165 per month.'

"Mr. Clarke did not retain possession and charge of the fund very long, for in two or three days afterward the entire Confederate government was dissolved and its former officials fugitives. I never learned what ultimately became of the money. For months afterwards, I understand, there was a good deal of excitement in that part of the country over it. I believe there were rumors that it had been buried, and that parties were organizing to search for it. Perhaps some legend will linger in that for years to come.

SENTENCE SERMONS.

You can run a business without cash, but not without character.

Many a son's solid vices spring from his fathers' veneer virtues.

It's better to have a small cooky well done than a large cake all dough.

The man who sneers at sincerity has taken a long course in the school of sin.

The burden you bear for another is the best badge you can wear as a Christian.

When a man really has a treasure in heaven he doesn't object to paying taxes on it.

The path to heaven is paved with good intentions crystallized into worthy acts.

Some folks think they are holy because a good dinner makes them feel unhappy.

The formation of a child's character is a greater work than the reformation of many men.

It's possible to throw out your crumbs of comfort in such a way as to make them seem like cinders in the eyes of others.

Some who think they are showing the hardness of their hearts by their sins are revealing only the softness of their heads.—[Chicago Tribune.

SHEEP KEEPERS' SUGGESTION.

Sheep greatly improve the land when too many are not kept on an acre.

A small fat sheep will always bring better prices than a large one.

All other things being equal, the finest wool is of course the best.

One does not become a saint by discovering the sins of others.